

**Seaham**  
**Urban District Council**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**FOR 1944**

**OF THE  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



**MOORHEAD & YOUNG, PRINTERS, SEAHAM**



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**Urban District Council**

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# Seaham Urban District Council.

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Chairman, Councillor W. P. SMITH, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. TODD,  
M.B.E., J.P.

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## Members of the Council:

Councillor ARMSTRONG	Councillor McLAUCHLAN
„ *BARRATT	„ *OLIVER
„ *BLACKWELL, J.H.	„ *PIGG
„ CONN	„ *ROBINSON
„ *CROW	„ *SAMPLE
„ GALLAGHER	„ *SCOTT, T. C.
„ *GASCOIGNE	SCOTT, J. A.
„ *GUY	„ *SMITH
„ HARRISON	„ *TODD
„ *KEELEY	„ WEBSTER
„ LAWSON	„ WEETMAN
„ *LEE	„ WILLIAMS
„ *LOWERY	„ WILSON
„ MYERS	„ WINTER
„ McCUTCHEON	„ *WRIGHT

\* Members of Health Committee.

## Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health :

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,  
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—J. B. ABBEY, M. INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.S.I.  
J. WORTHINGTON, M. INST. M. & CY. E.,  
A.M.T.P.I. (from November, 1944)

Clerks in Health Department—Mrs. C. T. WILLIS and  
Miss J. DOWDING.



*To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Seaham Urban District Council.*

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report for 1944, which conditions again necessitate being in a brief form.

Considering we have been engaged in total war since 1939, the general health of the area, in common with the rest of the country, has kept remarkably good.

We have had no serious epidemics, apart from a slight outbreak of Influenza in the beginning of the year, which was mild and quickly died. Diptheria has shown no tendency to resume the virulent type it displayed in 1942, and immunisation against that disease proceeded apace. We inaugurated a scheme of street by street immunisation, in which I was greatly aided by the British Red Cross.

Scabies, which we associate with the conditions of war, has been got under control, thanks largely to the energetic efforts in that direction displayed by the members of the First Aid Post. October of this year saw the closing of this Post and the thinning out of ambulance personnel. These people can look back in future years on the splendid way they rose to the occasion when the area needed them.

The Birth rate is the highest and the Death rate the lowest since 1940. Diseases of the heart again claim the greatest number of deaths; most of these refer to the natural process of ageing.

May I thank the Council, and my colleagues on the staff, for their loyal co-operation during this difficult year.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area : 2,467 statute acres.

Number of inhabited houses (June, 1944), 5,981 (5,981)

Estimated number of separate tenancies (June, 1944), 6,839 (6,893)

Rateable value, £102,108 (£101,960).

The sum represented by a Penny rate, £375 (£375)

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Birth Rate—LIVE BIRTHS :—

20.8 per 1000 estimated population (19.86)

### STILL BIRTHS :—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 31.6 (29.8).

### Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births, 73.6 (59.3)

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 71.5 (54.9)

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 47.6 (111.1).

### Deaths.

Total rate per 1000 population, 11.2 (13.5).

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births, 1.9. (1.0)

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Cancer ...	21 (11)	20 (7)	41 (18)
Deaths from Measles ...	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Deaths from Whooping Cough...	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	5 (0)	2 (0)	7 (0)
Deaths from Diphtheria ...	1 (4)	2 (2)	3 (6)
Deaths from T.B. (Pul.) ...	6 (6)	7 (10)	13 (16)
Deaths from T.B. (Non-Pul.) ...	1 (2)	2 (2)	3 (4)
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart ...	27 (44)	26 (29)	53 (73)
Deaths from Circulation (including Intracranial) ...	14 (19)	28 (18)	42 (37)
Deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc. ...	17 (14)	8 (9)	24 (23)

TABLE I.

**Vital Statistics for 1944 and certain  
previous years.**

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6

**TABLE II.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1943 and 1944.**

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Birth Rate ...	16.5	17.6	19.4	20.9	18.6	20.9	19.86	20.8
Death Rate ...	12.1	11.6	12.7	12.4	14.2	12.0	13.5	11.2
I. M. Rate ...	49	46	46	44	58	61	59.3	73.6



## **SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.**

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The tables and the remarks which follow will help to show how we have fared in this respect during the year.

TABLE III.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Died	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	1	3	2	20	8	2	2	—	—	—	30	—	39
Diphtheria ..	—	—	1	5	—	9	6	14	5	—	—	—	40	3	40
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4
Cerebro Spinal..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	3	3	1	2	4	17	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
Whooping Cough	9	8	5	3	5	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Pneumonia ..	7	3	2	5	2	11	—	2	6	4	7	4	—	—	53

**TABLE IV.**  
**Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1944.**

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	3	1	1	5	—	1	2	6	3	5	7	5	39
Diphtheria ..	12	4	2	9	3	4	1	2	—	2	1	—	40
Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4
Cerebro Spinal ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	2	1	—	4	6	7	10	6	1	1	4	1	43
Whooping Cough ..	10	6	—	1	—	2	2	1	4	4	4	6	40
Pneumonia ..	4	7	6	2	2	2	3	3	—	1	5	18	53

TABLE V.

**Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases notified during past five years.**

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever ...	7 (0)	31 (0)	71	53 (0)	39 (0)
Diphtheria ...	22 (2)	96 (9)	267 (7)	101 (6)	40 (3)
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1 (1)	3	3	1 (1)	—
Erysipelas ...	5 (0)	5	8	15 (0)	4 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	7 (4)	4	3 (1)	9 (4)	1 (1)
Poliomyelitis ...	1 (0)	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	990 (0)	225 (1)	38	786 (1)	43 (0)
Whooping Cough ...	26 (0)	136 (3)	56	34 (1)	40 (0)
Pneumonia ...	52 (10)	62 (12)	107	75 (13)	53 (0)
T.B.—Pulmonary ...	20 (9)	28 (14)	31 (21)	36 (16)	31 (7)
T.B.—Non-Pulmonary	21 (1)	14 (1)	22 (4)	21 (4)	27 (0)

**TABLE VI.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	1	—	5	—	1	—	—	—
15-20 ..	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	—
20-25 ..	1	3	1	1	—	1	—	—
25-35 ..	1	3	—	2	—	1	—	—
35-45 ..	7	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
45-55 ..	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55-65 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	15	16	14	11	4	3	0	0



A few short notes are here appended regarding the incidence of infectious diseases in the area.

- (1) **Cerebro Spinal Fever.**—In spite of the difficult housing situation there has been no major outbreak to record.
- (2) **Diphtheria.**—For the third year we can again record a drop in the number of cases of Diphtheria notified. The figures 267, 101 and 40 for the three years 1942, 1943 and 1944 respectively, leave their own record in your mind.

Thanks to the helpful and courteous co-operation of the local school teachers, the number of children immunised between the ages 5-15 has reached the desired figure.

In various areas British Red Cross members and others have very kindly granted the use of one room for the purpose of immunising children below school age, and the systematic canvass of the streets, combined with our monthly visits to the Child Welfare Centre, has helped us considerably in our “under five” numbers.

During the year 581 first injections and 715 second injections were given.

The degree to which the children were protected against Diphtheria is shown by the return sent to the Ministry of Health at the end of the year :—

	Under 5 years	Age 5 years under 15
Estimated percentage of child population fully immunised at 31/12/43	38.9%	86.2%
Estimated number of children completely immunised at 31/12/44 ...	794	3914
Estimated percentage of child population ... ..	38.7%	83.09%

- (3) **Measles.**—There have been fewer cases this year, which was to be expected.

- (4) **Scabies.**—This skin disease during the year was showing a diminution, and with the use of the Gas Cleansing Centre, Adelaide Row, we have effectively stamped it out, apart from a few isolated cases.

From January to December, 1944 :

Total number of treatments given during the year ...754  
 Total number of new cases entered during the year...218  
 Total number of people declared free from infection...222  
 Average number of treatments per case ... 3.3.

- (5) **Scarlet Fever.**—Scarlet Fever was again of a mild type.
- (6) **Tuberculosis.**—Tuberculosis in spite of all our war difficulties can be viewed with satisfaction. There has been a considerable drop in the number of deaths, and this is particularly noticeable in females, where the disease takes such a toll between the ages of 16 to 30 years.
- (7) **Whooping Cough.**—There has been no death to record in this disease, in which the great danger is chest complications.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

- (1) **Abatement of Nuisances**—All complaints received by the Sanitary Inspector have been attended to, and the following nuisances have been dealt with :—

Dwelling-houses	(	Foul conditions..	..	11
and	)	Structural defects	..	16
Schools	(	Overcrowding ..	..	10
Ashpits and Privies		..	..	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		..	..	6
Water Closets	..	..	..	89
Defective Yard Paving	..	..	..	10
House Drainage (Other faults)	..	..	..	21
Water Supply	..	..	..	3
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..	5
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	97

- (2) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—The disinfectant used is of the Thresh type and clothing and bedding are disinfected at Cornelia Terrace. In cases of infectious diseases occurring in the house, Formaldehyde and Cromessol are used.

Total number of houses and bedding disinfected, 128.

### (3) **Disinfestation and Eradication of Bed Bugs—**

This is done by (i) Powder (Kolium Co.) ; (ii) Insecticides (Kolium Co.) ; Cromessol soln A and B ; and (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur blocks) ; and (iv) Formaldehyde.

Council houses disinfested	...	Nil
Other houses disinfested	...	25

(4) **Drainage and Sewerage**—Sewerage disposal is done by means of a combined system, and it is discharged into the sea at the east side of the town. No complaints have been received. With the exception of a small number of isolated dwellings the entire district is on a water carriage system.

(5) **Factories and Workshops**.—Factories and Workshops have been inspected and there are no complaints to record.

(6) **Housing**.—Difficulty in obtaining material and labour has held up the building of houses, apart from war damage repairs. We hope in the near future to present a more favourable report.

(7) **Meat and other Foods**—A total of 890 visits were made where food is stored.

The following is a list of foods condemned :—

Beef 186 lbs., Pork 1120 lbs., Mutton 86 lbs., Sausage 176 lbs., Sausage Meat 23 lbs., Pork Luncheon Meat 156½ lbs., Beef Loaf 4 lbs., Chopped Ham, 50¾ lbs., Polony 3 lbs., Spam 1 lb., Corned Beef and Mutton 3 lbs. Casserole Steak 4 lbs., Bacon 190¾ lbs., Ham 4½ lbs., Ham Boiled 37½ lbs., Tongue 9 lbs., Butter 90½ lbs., Butter Peanut 1 lb., Cheese 114¾ lbs., Eggs 1651, Milk 122 tins, Jams 61 lbs., Marmalade 24 lbs., Syrup 11 lbs., Tomatoes 8 lbs., Carrots 5 lbs., Plums 6 lbs., Prunes 12 lbs., Sultanias 52 lbs., Beans 78 tins, Pork and Beans 3 tins, Peas 19 tins, Soups 7 tins, Fish 6 tins, Sardines 5 tins, Salmon 22 tins, Herrings 8 tins, Pilchards 62 tins, Mackerel 1 tin, Kippers 2 boxes, Fish Cakes 695, Sauces 19 bottles, Meat Paste 4 jars, Meat Juice 1 bottle, Fish



Paste 11 jars, Breakfast Spread 1 carton, Piccalilli 4 bottles, Beetroot 1 bottle, Vinegar 1 bottle, Prunes 50 lbs., Horseradish 1 bottle, Apples 905 lbs., Oranges 1347 lbs., Lemons 165 lbs., Potatoes 8 st., Onions 253 lbs., Rice 38 lbs., Rusks 59 pkts., Biscuits 31 tins, Bread 240 loaves, Egg Substitute 40 pkts, Egg Powder 10 pkts., Tea 2 lbs., Coffee Essence 10 bottles.

(8) **Milk.**—Farms have been inspected regularly during the year.

(9) **Port Sanitary Authority.**—All complaints reported have been investigated.

(10) **Refuse and Salvage.**—The total amount of refuse collected for the year ending 31st March, 1945, was 19,192 tons 10 cwts. Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip is situated in the south-eastern part of the area.

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being :

Paper	...	...	74 tons	9 cwts.
Scrap Metal	...	...	25 „	3 „
Non-ferrous Metals...	...	...	2 „	8 „
Textiles	...	...	14 „	16 „
Rubber	...	...	6 „	17 „
Bones	...	...	5 „	19 „
Kitchen Waste	...	...	200 „	17 „
Bottles	...	...	37 „	15 „

(11) **Water Supply.**—The water as supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., Ltd., has been shown to be of a pure and wholesome character. The Council possess water softening plants, in which the water is dealt with before delivery to some of the Council houses.







